



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Al Zofchak, et al.
Filed : November 17, 2003
Serial No. : 10/714,772
For : Ethoxylated Polyurethane Viscosity Enhancers

Group Art Unit : 1616
Examiner : Sabiah N. Qazi

Mail Stop: Non-fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450

**Election of Invention in Response
to Restriction Requirement**

In response to the Examiner's correspondence dated April 10, 2007, pursuant to the Examiner's restriction requirement in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, namely claims 1-9 and 12-17 drawn to a personal care product comprising dimeric urethane.

Notwithstanding Applicants' election, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's requirement for restriction. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider her restriction requirement regarding the election of the inventions and examine all claims in groups I, III and IV, namely claims 1-9 and 11-20 in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that prosecution of all of the claims in groups I, III and IV as set forth above will allow the Examiner to examine the entire application in one prosecution without being subjected to an undue burden as discussed hereinbelow. Moreover, because all of the claims of invention groups I, III and IV are directed to personal care products, it is respectfully submitted that there is a logical classification and organization to the three invention groups which would justify examination in this application.

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According to M.P.E.P. §803, restriction by the Examiner of patentably distinct inventions is proper if the claimed inventions are independent and a *serious burden* would be placed on the Examiner if restriction was not required. Applicant respectfully submits that the presentation of the amended claims would not place such a serious burden on the Examiner as to require restriction. All of the originally restricted claims of the present invention are directed to related, though patentably distinct compositions which would not impose a heavy burden of examination on the part of the Examiner.

Thus, it is Applicants' view that any search the Examiner would need to conduct in examining the instant application of all the claims would not be unduly burdensome. That would not be to say that the examination would not be rigorous or even time-consuming, but that such effort would not meet the burden requirements of MPEP§803 in order to impose restriction. Moreover, the examination of all of the claims of groups I, III and IV of the instant application would not place such a serious burden on the Examiner as to require restriction, especially in light of the administrative efficiency gained by doing all of the claims at the same time, especially given the close relationship of the subject matter.

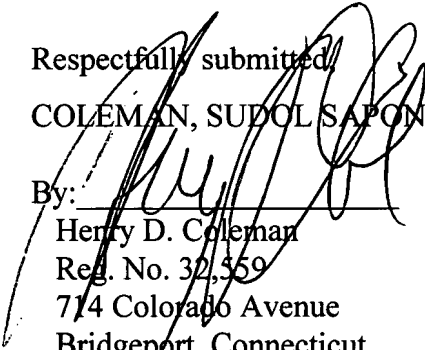
Applicants understand the general policy considerations for the Patent Office's requirement for restriction in certain instances. In this instance, however, those considerations do not weigh in favor of restricting the inventions here. In determining the appropriateness of restriction, one must also consider the countervailing consideration that, in each instance, Applicants wish the Patent Office examine their patent application with a certain degree of "administrative efficiency" and wish to have patent claims issue which reflect the breadth of their invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that originally filed claims 1-9 and 11-20 found in invention groups I, III and IV are sufficiently narrow to allow the Examiner to determine patentability without being subjected to the serious burden referred to in M.P.E.P. §803.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement with respect to original claims 1-9, and 11-20 of invention groups I, III and IV.

The Examiner is cordially requested to call the undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephonic discussion may materially advance the prosecution of the instant application in any way. No fee is due for the presentation of the instant paper. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee or to credit any overpayment to deposit account 04-0838.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: May 15, 2007

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, dated May 15, 2007.


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